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TAGS: [MOPS](#) [IZ](#) [NL](#) [NATO](#)

SUBJECT: NATO/IRAQ: DUTCH ON NATO TRAINING

REF: STATE 161037

Classified By: CLASSIFIED BY ANDREW SCHOFER FOR REASONS 1.5 (B AND D)

(C) PolMilOff delivered reftel points to MFA Security Policy Operations Acting Director Joost Flamand on July 26. Flamand said that while the GONL did not object to "dual-hatting" the MNF-I commander as commander of the NATO training mission, the Dutch thought it might be preferable to first obtain agreement on the details of the training mission. Flamand acknowledged the U.S. had presented "sound reasons" for dual-hatting MNF-I commander as NATO mission commander. Nevertheless, given the imperative to broaden allied participation in Iraq, such a step might give those allies not in Iraq an excuse to argue against the mission. Flamand stressed the GONL wanted NATO to be able to carry out its Istanbul commitments. He suggested that, should the issue of command become a focal point for disagreement, it might be advisable to indicate dual-hatting as "a preference" depending on the outcome of discussions over NATO's exact role. Flamand also noted the Netherlands as EU President will lead an exploratory mission to Iraq to see if the EU can play a role, perhaps in police training. He expressed concern that the French and the Germans might use the lack of clarity concerning the EU's role as a pretext to block consensus in NATO.

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